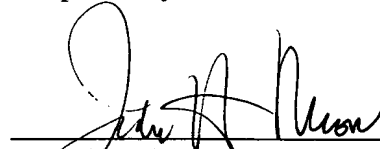


PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

REMARKS

The above amendments have been made to eliminate all multiple dependent claims, thereby ensuring examination of all claims on the merits in the first Office Action.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John H. Mion", is written over a horizontal line.

John H. Mion
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Date: April 12, 2004